

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ID

SUBJECT: US TUNA VESSELS FISHING NEAR INDONESIA

1. DEPT. HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FISH-
ING INDUSTRY WHO ANTICIPATE THAT SEVERAL U.S.-FLAG TUNA
VESSELS WILL SOON BE FISHING IN WATERS AROUND INDONESIA.
INDUSTRY REPS HAVE REQUESTED INFORMATION REGARDING GOI LAWS
AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN FISHING.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS
TO ASCERTAIN (A) EXTENT OF GOI CLAIM OVER TUNA RESOURCES
OFF ITS COAST, (B) WHETHER THERE IS PROVISION IN GOI LAWS
FOR LICENSING OF FOREIGN VESSELS TO FISH TUNA WITHIN
CLAIMED AREA, (C) IF SO, WHAT ARE SPECIFIC TERMS AND CON-
DITIONS OF LICENSES (COST, SEASONS, ETC.), (D) WHAT PROCE-
DURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN LICENSES, AND
(E) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

3. FYI- U.S.G. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE JURISDICTION OF ANY
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COASTAL STATE OVER THE HIGHLY MIGRATORY TUNA BEYOND
12 MILES, AND IS PRECLUDED BY U.S. LAW FROM DOING SO. THUS
IT IS POSITION OF USG THAT U.S. TUNA FISHERMEN ARE NOT
LEGALLY OBLIGED TO PURCHASE LICENSES TO FISH BEYOND

12 MILES. NONETHELESS, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER MANY U.S.
TUNA FISHERMEN WILLING TO BUY LICENSES IN ORDER TO AVOID

CONFRONTATIONS AND SEIZURES. U.S. INDUSTRY REPS WHO HAVE CONTACTED DEPT. REGARDING FISHING OFF INDONESIA HAVE INDICATED THAT VESSELS INVOLVED WILL LIKELY PURCHASE LICENSES IF NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE.

4. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE AS RAPID A RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE SINCE U.S. VESSELS INVOLVED MAY BE IN AREA SOON. VANCE

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